

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing adamantanes by isomerizing a tricyclic saturated hydrocarbon compound having 10 or more carbon atoms, wherein the process comprises: (A) isomerizing a raw material in the presence of a zeolite catalyst supported by at least one metal selected from metals of group VIII to group X of the periodic table in a ion-exchange method or impregnation method, in the absence of hydrogen chloride; (B) concentrating a reaction product liquid; (C) crystallizing the concentrated adamantanes; (D) separating crystallized adamantanes from slurry having precipitated crystals; (E) washing the crystal of adamantanes obtained by the separation; and (F) drying the washed crystals of adamantanes,

(1) wherein the concentrating comprises a flash tower or a distillation column singly or a plurality thereof in combination, and (A) comprises at least a part of a column-top distillate is reused as a solvent, or the crystallizing comprises at least a part of the column-top distillate is used as a recrystallization solvent;

(2) wherein the crystallizing comprises cooling crystallization, evaporative crystallization, or the combination thereof are used for the

(3) wherein a recrystallization step and a re-washing step are provided between the solid-liquid separation or the washing and the drying, and at least a part of a mother liquor formed in these steps is reused by recirculating as a part of the solvent or the raw material in the reaction (A), or by recirculating to the concentration or to the crystallization; and

(4) wherein the reaction (A), concentration (B), crystallization (C), and solid-liquid separation (D) are operated in either a batch-wise system or a continuous system.

2. (original) The process for producing adamantanes according to Claim 1, wherein the tricyclic saturated hydrocarbon compound having 10 or more carbon atoms is a compound obtained by hydrogenation of a tricyclic unsaturated hydrocarbon compound having 10 or more carbon atoms.

Claim 3-7 (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) A process for producing adamantanes,

(1) wherein the adamantanes produced by isomerizing a tricyclic saturated hydrocarbon compound having 10 or more carbon atoms in the presence of a zeolite catalyst supported by at least one metal selected from metals of group VIII to group X of the periodic table in a ion-exchange method or impregnation method, in the absence of hydrogen chloride and concentrating a reaction product liquid to an adamantane concentration of from 10 to 50% by mass are purified by a crystallization, the crystallization comprising continuously or batch-wise crystallization or evaporative crystallization at a temperature of from -20 to 50°C

(2) wherein crystals of the adamantanes containing a liquid fraction in the range from 5 to 50% by mass are dried by stirring, shaking, or stirring and shaking;

(3) wherein the drying is performed under the conditions including a pressure from 0.1 to 101 kPa, a temperature in the range from the boiling point of the washing solvent minus 50°C to the boiling point of the solvent;

(4) wherein the adamantanes are dried by at least one method selected from the group consisting of convective drying, radiative drying, and conductive drying; and

(5) wherein drying is performed by either a continuous system or a batch-wise system.

Claims 9-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The process for producing adamantanes according to Claim 8 ~~[[17]]~~, wherein the tricyclic saturated hydrocarbon compound having 10 or more carbon atoms refers to trimethylenenorbornane.

Claims 19-22 (Cancelled)